

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5133

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SEOUL 0552

EXDIS

DEPT PASS CINCPAC FOR ASST SECY HABIB AND AMB. SNEIDER

CINCPAC HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MNUC, PARM, KS, FR, CA

SUBJECT: KOREAN NUCLEAR REPROCESSING: CANADIAN REACTOR SALE

REF: SEOUL 0551

1. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR STILES SAYS KOREAN AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON FOLLOWING LANGUAGE PROPOSED BY CANADA AS BASIS FOR SIGNING BILATERAL GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT REGARDING SALE OF CANDU REACTOR. STILES SAYS SIGNING CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE SEOUL AT 1400 HOURS JANUARY 26 (MIDNIGHT JANUARY 25 EST).

2. TEXT OF AGREED LANGUAGE IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

CANADIAN CABINET DECIDED ON JANUARY 22, 1976 THAT
CANADIAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SHOULD
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AUTHORIZE SIGNATURE OF BILATERAL NUCLEAR CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT

WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA BEFORE JANUARY 26, PROVIDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA CONCURS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA STATING PUBLICLY THAT IT HAS THE ASSURANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA THAT:

1) IT IS NOT PURSUING ACQUISITION OF THE REPROCESSING FACILITY,
AND

2) THE PROJECTED REPROCESSING FACILITY HAS BEEN SHELVED INDEFINITELY, WHICH IS UNDERSTOOD TO MEAN FOR A LENGTHY PERIOD OF TIME, AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES ON FURTHER NUCLEAR CO-OPERATION ARE RESOLVED.

END TEXT

3. STILES SAYS HE AND FONMIN PAK HAVE AGREED THERE WILL BE NO PUBLICITY IN SEOUL WHEN AGREEMENT SIGNED. CANADIAN FONMIN, NOW IN BRUSSELS, IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE IN OTTAWA ON JANUARY 29 OR JANUARY 30 TO ANSWER INTERPELLATIONS IN COMMONS. HE INTENDS BASE REPLIES ON TEXT CONTAINED ABOVE. IN MEANTIME, ACTING FONMIN WILL REPLY TO ANY QUERIES THAT IT NOT APPROPRIATE, IN VIEW STATUS DISCUSSIONS, TO COMMENT ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. STILES SAYS THAT PARTIES HAVE AGREED THAT "THE REPROCESSING FACILITY" REFERRED TO IN TEXT MEANS REPROCESSING FACILITY CONTRACTED FOR WITH FRENCH. THIS UNDERSTANDING WAS APPARENTLY LAST HURDLE TO BE OVERCOME IN ROK/CANADA DISCUSSIONS. WHEN KOREANS SUGGESTED THIS UNDERSTANDING CANADIANS BECAME SUSPICIOUS THAT THEY MIGHT BE INTENDING TO PURCHASE REPROCESSING FACILITY FROM SOME COUNTRY OTHER THAN FRENCE AND HAD TO BE SATISFIED ON THIS POINT.

5. CHARGE COMMENTED THAT LAST SENTENCE OF AGREED ROK/CANADA LANGUAGE APPEARED TO PLACE HEAVY BURDEN ON EARLY FAVORABLE OUTCOME OF ROK/US DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. HE REMINDED STILES THAT WE NOT YET CERTAIN OF THAT OUTCOME, SAID THAT KOREANS WELL AWARE THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH US COULD NOT BE PROTRACTED, AND ASKED WHAT CANADIAN POSITION WOULD BE IF US/ROK DISCUSSIONS PROVED INCONCLUSIVE. STILES SAID GOC HAD DECIDED
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TO GAMBLE ON FAVORABLE OUTCOME WHICH, HE THOUGHT, COULD NOT FAIL IF US HELD TO POSITIONS OF WHICH GOC AWARE.

6. CHARGE HAD INFORMED STILES IN GENERAL TERMS OF CONTENTS OF US/ROK RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS (CONCERNING WHICH HE HAS ALSO HAD SOME INFO FROM KOREANS), AND HAS WARNED HIM THAT WE DO NOT CONSIDER THESE DISCUSSIONS AS NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. CHARGE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT HE

INFORM OTTAWA THAT IT SHOULD STAY IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH WITH
WASHINGTON DURING FORTHCOMING WEEK TO ENSURE THAT WHEN FONMIN
DOES ANSWER INTERPELLATIONS, HE FULLY INFORMED OF STATE OF
PLAY OF US/ROK DISCUSSIONS AND WASHINGTON ATTITUDE TOWARD WHAT
MIGHT APPROPRIATELY BE SAID AT THAT TIME WHICH WOULD NOT
ENDANGER US EFFORTS.
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